

## PATENT

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23. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 12 wherein the distance (x) is between 70 millimeters and 80 millimeters and the distance (x) is at least 150% of the hole-diameter (d).

24. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 11 wherein a feed-screw has a screw thread with crests being sweepable across the holes at a predefined distance (y) from the holes in the jacket surface of the distributor housing, the distance (y) is in a range of 8 millimeters to 12 millimeters.

25. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 11 wherein the apparatus treating the cellulose pulp is a wash press.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner requested copies of SE-C-512753 and SE-C-448009 discussed in the specification. Attached is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement that includes the equivalent English translations, US Patent No. 6,306,259 (claiming priority back to SE 512753, application no. 9900835)

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and US Patent No. 4,559,104 (claiming priority back to SE 448009, application no. 8304979). The first page of SE512753 and SE448009 are also enclosed in the Supplemental IDS to show the application nos. of each Swedish application that in turn are matching the foreign priority data on the first page of the corresponding US patent numbers 6,306,259 and 4,559,104.

Claims 11-13, 15-18, 21-25 were rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over SE 512753 in view of Perneborn. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In summary, the distributor device of the present invention is a very effective distributor device for cellulose pulp having a 2-12% consistency. The holes of the feed cylinder are all placed below the axis of rotation to provide effective distribution. It is submitted that the cited references do not teach or suggest all the limitations of the amended claims.

SE 512753 merely discloses a device for washing a dewatering a fibrous suspension. The device includes a pulp inflow chamber.

Perneborn merely shows a distributor for particulate material. The cylinder 5 has an arcuate slot 8 that extends from a highest position at the slot end 9 to a lowest position at the other distal end 10 (col. 3, line 55-59). The slot 8 at the slot end 9 is thus disposed above the rotating axis of the feed screw. The slot 8 is inclined relative to the generatrix (col. 2, line

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19) and as shown in the Figs. 1 and 5. The distal end 10 is placed at the lowest point of the cylinder to ensure that all of the particulate material is conveyed by the feeder screw and the inclined angle of the slip prevents particulate material from being collected at the outlet end 11 of the cylinder in the space below the lowest end of the slot which would otherwise disturb the even distribution of the flow of particulates that are fed from the slot (col. 4, 43-50). This is to ensure that the dry state material loses "building height" inside the screw as the material is being fed out.

In col. 1, lines 22-31, Perneborn explains that his particulate material is substantially dry which means no liquid has been added to the particulate material. It is undesirable that the super-absorbent material should absorb liquid. In col. 3, lines 44-49, Perneborn further explains that the powder is substantially dry and that feeding moist powder or other solid particulate material by means of the screw conveyor is quite difficult and other method and devices must in that case be used to obtain a satisfactory result.

Applicant fails to see why a person of ordinary skill in the art would look to Perneborn to learn about distributing cellulose pulp of a 2 to 12% consistency when Perneborn is teaching away from adding moist of liquid to the his particulate material. Perneborn also explains that the feeding of moist

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powder is quite difficult and other methods and devices must in that case be used to obtain a satisfactory result. Also, an artisan would not look to Perneborn to learn about placing all the holes below the rotating axis when Perneborn teaches that the slot should extend from the top of the cylinder at an angle to a lowest point of the cylinder.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teaches or suggests that they be combined in the manner suggested. It is even submitted that Perneborn is teaching away from using the device for distributing moist powder and pulp slurry. Additionally, none of the cited references teaches placing all the holes below the axis of rotation of the feed screw.

Claims 12, 16-18, 21-25 are submitted to be allowable because they depend upon the allowable base claim 11 and because each claim includes limitations not taught or suggested in the cited references.

Claim 15 is submitted to be allowable because it depends upon the allowable base claim 13 and because the claim includes limitations not taught or suggested in the cited references.

Claims 19-20 were rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over SE 512753 in view of Perneborn and further in view

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of SE 448009 or Berger or Wallen or Klausen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that claims 19-20 are allowable because they depend upon the allowable base claim 11 and because each claim includes limitations not taught or suggested in the cited references.

Claims 11-25 were rejected under Section 112 as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to conform to Section 112.

Claims 14 would be allowable if amended to include all the limitations of the independent claim and any intervening claim and if the Section 112 rejection is overcome. Claim 13 has been rewritten into independent form and includes all the limitations of claim 11 and claim 14. It is submitted that claim 13 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been canceled.

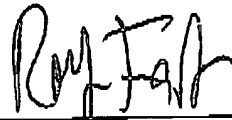
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The application is submitted to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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